

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 remain pending in the application and stand rejected. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections for the reasons set forth below, and respectfully requests reconsideration in view of the following remarks.

Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,840,607 to Hitchcock et al. Claim 1 is the only independent claim of this rejected group and is directed to a multiple rib V-belt comprising a belt body and a plurality of V-shaped grooves, wherein "said belt body and said grooves [are] formed according to standard dimensions for a given V-belt section, but [have] an overall thickness and a groove depth which are reduced from the standard dimensions for the V-belt section." Accordingly, claim 1 is directed to a multiple rib V-belt which has a configuration that is modified from established standard geometric specifications for a V-belt section. (See Application at page 5, lines 18-24.)

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claim 1 because Hitchcock '607 does not teach or suggest a multiple rib V-belt that has an overall thickness and a groove depth that are reduced from the standard dimensions for a given V-belt section, as required by claim 1. Rather, Hitchcock '607 is directed to a modified pulley which can be used with standard K-type V-belts. Specifically, Hitchcock '607 states:

There are three types of poly-v belts sold commercially. These are "K" type, the "J" type and the "L" type. The "K" type poly-v belt is generally used in automotive applications.

(Hitchcock '607 at col. 1, lines 18-21.)

It is an object of the present invention to provide a pulley for use in a v-belt power transmission system which is lower in weight and material content than prior designs, and which is less expensive than existing pulleys without any reduction in quality or operating efficiency. . . . The forgoing objects are accomplished by a spin formed sheet metal pulley preferably for driving "K" type poly v-belts.

(Hitchcock '607 at col. 1, lines 49-68.)

Applicant notes that the "truncated rib" K type V-belt referred to in Hitchcock '607 is a conventional, standard V-belt section, and not a V-belt that has been further modified by varying the dimensions for a standard V-belt section in a manner consistent with claim 1. For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 1 over Hitchcock '607 be withdrawn.

Claim 2 depends from independent claim 1 and is therefore in condition for allowance for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 2 over Hitchcock '607 be withdrawn.

Claims Rejected Under U.S.C. §103

Claims 3 and 4 stand rejected under U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hitchcock '607. Claim 5 stands rejected under U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hitchcock '607 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,647,278 to Hull. Claims 3-5 each depend from independent claim 1 and therefore include each feature recited in independent claim 1. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections of claim 3-5 because Hitchcock '607 does not teach or suggest a multiple rib V-belt having a belt body and grooves formed according to standard dimensions for a given V-belt section,

but wherein the overall thickness and the groove depth are reduced from the standard dimensions of the V-belt section, as discussed above with respect to claim 1. As noted in the Application at page 3, lines 8-13, and at page 6, lines 8-13, the reduction in overall thickness and groove depth in the multiple rib V-belts of the present invention have provided unexpected results in terms of improved fatigue life. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of claim 3-5 based on Hitchcock '607, alone or in combination with Hull '278, be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant believes this case is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes any issue requires further discussion, the Examiner is respectfully asked to telephone the undersigned attorney so that the matter may be promptly resolved. The Examiner's prompt attention to this matter is appreciated.

Applicant does not believe that any fees are due in connection with this submission. However, if any fees are necessary to complete this communication, the Commissioner may consider this to be a request for such and charge any necessary fees to Deposit Account No. 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,

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